## AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of modifying the behavior of an animal, comprising the steps of:

increasing a stimulation level of a stimulation device in stimulating contact with the animal, said stimulation level associated with one of a plurality of levels, said plurality of levels

5   including a minimum level;

applying a stimulation to the animal associated with said stimulation level;

determining a compliant behavior of the animal; ~~and~~

reducing said stimulation level to one of said plurality of levels between a current stimulation level and said minimum level dependent upon said determining step; and

10   setting said current stimulation level to said minimum level dependent upon a triggering event.


2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating said increasing step and said applying step dependent upon said determining step detecting noncompliant behavior of the animal.


3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of levels additionally include at least three levels.


4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said stimulation device is an electrical stimulation device attached to a collar.

5. (original)  The method of claim 1, wherein said reducing step includes lowering said stimulation level by one level of said plurality of levels.

6. (original)  The method of claim 1, wherein said increasing step includes raising said stimulation level by one level of said plurality of levels.

7. (original)  The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step includes receiving one of a signal that a border has been violated by the animal and a signal that the animal has barked.

8. (withdrawn)  An animal behavior modification apparatus, comprising:

a stimulation device for applying a stimulation having a current stimulation level associated with one of a plurality of stimulation levels including a minimum level, said stimulation device including control logic for applying a stimulation, based upon:

5          increasing said current stimulation level;

applying a stimulation corresponding to said current stimulation level;

determining the behavior of the animal until compliant behavior is obtained; and

reducing said current stimulation level between said current stimulation level and said minimum level dependant upon said determining step.

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9. (withdrawn)  The apparatus of claim 8, further including the step of repeating said increasing step and said applying step dependent upon said determining step detecting noncompliant behavior of the animal.

10. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said plurality of levels additionally include at least three levels.

11. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a collar, said stimulation device being an electrical stimulation device attached to said collar.

12. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said reducing step includes lowering said stimulation level by one level of said plurality of levels.

13. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said increasing step includes raising said stimulation level by one level of said plurality of levels.

14. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said determining step includes receiving one of a signal that a border has been violated by the animal and a signal that the animal has barked.

15. (withdrawn) A method of altering a stimulation level of an animal behavior modification device, comprising the steps of:

detecting behavior compliant behavior of the animal; and

reducing a stimulation level an incremental amount between a current stimulation level

5 and a minimum level dependent upon said detecting step.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of increasing said stimulation level dependent upon said detecting step detecting noncompliant behavior of the animal.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein said increasing step includes raising said stimulation level by one level of a plurality of levels.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of applying a stimulation to the animal with a stimulation device, said stimulation associated with said current stimulation level.

19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said reducing step includes lowering said stimulation level by one level of a plurality of levels.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said detecting step includes receiving one of a signal that a border has been violated by the animal and a signal that the animal has barked.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of setting said current stimulation level to said minimum level by a triggering event.

22. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein said triggering event is one of changing a battery in a collar, recharging said battery in said collar and manually activating a switch in said collar.

23. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said triggering event is one of changing a battery in a collar, recharging said battery in said collar and manually activating a switch in said collar.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein said triggering event is changing said battery in a collar.

25. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein said triggering event is charging said battery in said collar.

26. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein said triggering event is manually activating a switch in said collar.